

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Appln. No. : 10/659,303

Examiner:

Filed

: September 11, 2003

For

: VERTEBRA BODY PLATE FOR VERTEBRAL COLUMN FIXING

SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the Abstract as follows:

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract contained in the application: